













MAKING CHEAP PORK.

ONE OF THE SECRETS IS TO KEEP PIGS GROWING RIGHT ALONG.

In order to grow pork cheaply there are several things to be considered, says J. S. Woodward in the *Practical Farmer*. We must make it on young pigs; we must make it on cheap food and in the quickest time possible, and we must make it on a pig that will grow up and assimilate more food in proportion than other hogs and we do not have so much live weight to maintain. The man who winters a lot of pigs and does not have them weighing more when spring comes than when they went to wintering, feeding does not know much about making profitable pork. He has wasted all the food he fed and besides has stunted the pigs so they never will make as much gain from the food consumed as though they had kept growing right along from birth until they reached selling time. It is foolish to keep a pig that is not gaining, how much more foolish to keep one through the winter that is losing in weight right along. My practice is to keep a number of brood sows through the winter and have them farrow in March and then to keep the pigs steadily growing until the proper weight to sell. Two years ago when we had such a beautiful harvest of apples I learned the secret of wintering a number of brood sows and they would eat a little more and have them raise a nice crop of pigs. I wintered twelve sows ranging in weight from 250 to 400 pounds on 600 pounds of cut apples giving them each daily twenty pounds of wheat middlings and one pound of corn. They would eat a little more and have them raise a nice crop of pigs. I wintered twelve sows ranging in weight from 250 to 400 pounds on 600 pounds of cut apples giving them each daily twenty pounds of wheat middlings and one pound of corn. They would eat a little more and have them raise a nice crop of pigs.

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Why Sows Eat Their Pigs.

The Trouble in the Feeding of the Sow During Pregnancy.

A subscriber asks me to give an answer to the question, "Why does a sow sometimes devour and eat her piglets?" There are a good many reasons given for this habit. Among them the following: Hysteria, something similar to periparturient mania in the human family. An unusually nervous condition of the body. An acute thirst due to too much grain being fed and an insufficient supply of water. I might give half a dozen other reasons, writes Mr. Woodward in National Stockman, but I investigated in the bottom they will all be found to be due to one cause, improper feeding. It is a mother during pregnancy. Now when farrowing in season, running in a good pasture with plenty of water to drink over eats her pigs. It is only when she is farrowed in winter quarters or in the early spring after being fed too much grain that she shows any tendency to devour her piglets. It makes no use to read as I did a few days ago in a western paper devoted to the wine industry such advice as to be sure to "feed a pregnant sow for a few days before farrowing a piece of fat pork daily, and it costive to give a dose of castor oil daily to move the bowels and cool the blood." What nonsense! Why not be sensible and tell the owner to make the conditions as near like summer as possible and then feed the sow, not only for a few days or weeks before farrowing, but during the whole period on a succulent, cooling diet. I will make my reputation as a farmer that no sow kept in a roomy warm pen and fed liberally on roots, wheat middlings with a little linseed oil meal and plenty of clean water will ever eat her piglets. I have put twelve sows in a roomy warm pen and fed them on nine bushels of cut apples and twenty pounds of wheat middlings daily, and the twelve raised one hundred nine pigs and never a sow was lost in devouring them. I did show any tendency to devour her piglets. I have put twelve sows in a roomy warm pen and fed them on nine bushels of cut apples and twenty pounds of wheat middlings daily, and the twelve raised one hundred nine pigs and never a sow was lost in devouring them.

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